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Successor to Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins Subject of Discussion by Noted Radio Broadcaster

Secretary of Labor Perkins has had her resignation in for two years and, although she has continued on the job during that time, she is now about to be made administrator for the Federal Security Agency, succeeding Paul V. McNutt. While John G. Winant, U. S. Ambassador to England, was favored in Administration circles, he does not appear available and Miss Perkins' likely successor will be either Dr. John R. Steelman, now director of the Conciliation Service, or M. M. Neely, former representative, senator and governor of West Virginia.

This was reported by Albert N. Dennis in the broadcast of his "Labor News Review" program, over Station WJSV of the Columbia System, for which network he is regular commentator on labor, industry and economics. In a special commentary on the subject of "Who Will Be the New Secretary of Labor?" Dennis had this to say:

Strong Backing for Steelman

"John G. Winant, our ambassador to England, has been considered—and very favorably. Many believe he would make an ideal Secretary of Labor. The British, however, say he is doing a splendid job as our ambassador and should remain in London. Many here share this view.

"A large group favors the advancement of Dr. John R. Steelman, who has done an outstanding job as director of the Conciliation Service. He would be generally acceptable to labor, to industry and to the general public. Many believe he would make an exceptionally good Secretary of Labor. But Dr. Steelman has not engaged in politics. His value as a political asset would have to be largely overlooked. That could be done, of course, and it is widely believed politics could well be left out of that kind of an appointment.

"But there is a new political angle. One which has not, so far as I know, been made public until right now. Matthew M. Neely is said to be after the job of Secretary of Labor. Regardless of his personal ambition, he is available. Also, it is known that a powerful group is now endeavoring to pave the way for his appointment.

"Anyway, if Secretary Perkins is moved over to the Federal Security Agency, as contemplated, and it is not feasible to name John G. Winant, then the probable choice appears at this time to lie between Dr. Steelman and Matthew M. Neely, as the new Secretary of Labor."

Radio Commentator's Record

Albert N. Dennis, who made the above-quoted broadcast, has scored several news "beats" in the nine years his program has been on the air. He "called" the reappointment of Secretary Perkins, in both 1937 and 1941, following President Roosevelt's two re-elections, when it was generally thought she might be dropped; and he stated, nine days in advance of the official announcement, that Chairman Davis would head the new War Labor Board, and gave other accurate details, when most people felt certain Davis would not be carried over from the old board.

There have been many rumors regarding Secretary Perkins, but Dennis says "it can now be reported that a change appears to be in the making," and "the war has brought a set of circumstances which has developed an undercover clamor for a change." Dennis revealed for the first time in any public manner the fact that Senator Neely was being given serious consideration for the labor post in the Cabinet. Among others whose name frequently had been mentioned in connection with the position was that of Daniel J. Tobin, general president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Hearings at Sacramento on Bills Affecting Labor

That members of the Assembly judiciary committee are not going to pass badly drawn bills even though they may be draped in the Stars and Stripes was evidenced last week when the committee considered the Bashore bill (A.B. 485), which would make it a misdemeanor to compel a veteran engaged on any state project, or by contractors supplying materials to such projects, to join a labor union.

Measure's Defects Apparent

Appearing in behalf of the bill, Assemblyman Bashore made an emotional appeal for its passage, without touching on its merits. Assemblymen Sargent and Carlson questioned him at great length, and in the exchange it was only too clear that Mr. Bashore was not able to defend the bill. That it would involve contractors who would be engaged in building these state projects as well as those supplying materials to them, was unquestionably established, and if these contractors had union shop agreements, they would not be able to qualify for doing this work without abrogating their contracts with the union.

Mr. Bashore was unable to get over this hurdle and had to admit that he was not qualified to judge these points brought up by the members of the judiciary committee. Assemblyman Carlson of Alameda county declared that in his opinion the bill was badly drawn and because of that he would not be able to vote for it.

Veterans' Group in Opposition

A representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and another from the California State Federation of Labor spoke against the bill, pointing out that it would discriminate against those Veterans who were union members as well as collide with federal law now in effect respecting collective bargaining agreements. In the Labor Code there are already provisions which protect any man from being coerced into joining a union, thus making such proposals in the Bashore bill entirely superfluous.

After considerable time was given to the arguments pro and con, in the crowded committee room, a motion was made to recommend passage of the bill, and an amendment to lay it over for a week. Both the amendment and the motion were voted down decis-

(Continued on Page Two)

War Labor Board Rejects A.F.L. Members' Petition For Change in Policies

The War Labor Board majority declined, last Monday, to accede immediately to the petition presented by American Federation of Labor members of the board for a change in policies in relation to the "Little Steel" formula and other matters.

The suggestions made to the board on policy change were summarized in last week's issue of the LABOR CLARION, and the argument presented by the A.F.L. members in support thereof is given elsewhere in this week's issue. The subject doubtless will remain a very live one in view of the existing wage and cost-of-living conditions. The A.F.L. argument presented to the board should be given careful perusal by every union member.

Board "Declaration"

The majority of the board, following presentation of the A.F.L. petition, was reported in press dispatches as adopting a declaration that "the board proceed with the development of its wage policy which recognizes the existence of inequalities, sub-standard wages and the need to aid in the better prosecution of the war." In essence, this was viewed as a restatement of the board's present policy.

The board also rejected the proposal to reconsider the aircraft and packing house cases. The vote on this question was 7 to 5, with Wayne L. Morse voting with the four labor members in the minority.

Stabilization Director's Authority

"It is understood by the W.L.B., as well as by the Director of Stabilization," the board statement continued, "that the board is to make its own decisions in cases which come before it on its own judgment." It was conceded by the board that Stabilization Director Byrnes has authority to stay decisions which might affect price ceilings and also to issue policy directives binding upon the W.L.B.

Chairman's Statement

At a press conference, Chairman Davis of the board was asked about the possibility of a change in the "Little Steel" formula if prices continued to rise, and he stated "it should be obvious if that policy breaks down, or radical changes occur, it will have to be taken into account by the War Labor Board."

Effect of Farm Prices

He was asked whether pending legislation which opponents contend would permit sharply increased farm prices would be a "radical change." "If it does result in a substantial change in the cost of food, then we would have to consider that a radical change," he replied.

New Member of N.L.R.B.

John M. Houston, who served four terms as a Democratic member of Congress from Kansas and was defeated in the last election, as a result of a gerrymander of his district, was nominated as a member of the National Labor Relations Board by President Roosevelt.

If confirmed by the Senate, Houston will fill the vacancy created by the return of Dr. William M. Leiserson to the National Mediation Board.

This was described as the first time that the President has appointed to the board a member with no background in the field of labor relations.

March Is "Red Cross Month." Donate to the War Fund!

Probers Throw Spotlight On Army of Draft Dodgers

Government employees who have been dodging the draft, both in and out of uniform, were brought into the open last week by congressional investigation.

The explosive situation, says *Labor,* in reporting on the investigation, was touched off by the disclosure that David Ginsberg, 31-year-old general counsel of the Office of Price Administration, had obtained deferment from military service through the intervention of Leon Henderson, former O.P.A. chieftain, who claimed that his assistant was "irreplaceable."

After Henderson had been kicked out of the O.P.A., Ginsberg sent his resignation to Prentiss M. Brown, new O.P.A. director, and immediateley made arrangements to be sent to a "cushy" job in London as a captain or lieutenant colonel in the army.

Congressmen Are Wrathy

Members of Congress literally "raised the roof" when they were advised of the facts.

Solons were reported as incensed by the revelation that literally thousands of draft dodgers have sought refuge from military service in government employment. One of the lawmakers said it wouldu be possible to recruit a division of first line troops right in the capital.

One of the worst offenders, *Labor* continues, has been the O.P.A. More than 900 of its 4800 Washington employees are between the ages of 18 and 38. It was learned that Henderson recruited 2700 young lawyers and about half that number of economists—all "fresh out" of college and most of them suitable army material.

Director Brown has taken note of this situation and indicated that he is about ready to start a housecleaning that will eliminate thousands of employees from his staff. The regiment of lawyers will be the first to get the skids, Brown said.

Say Abuse Is Widespread

A subcommittee of the House military affairs committee declares that the abuse runs through nearly all agencies in Washington. It cited the case of a 35-year-old unmarried lawyer in the Labor Department who has been staving off induction since October, 1941, on the plea that his presence in the Government was necessary to "maintain the morale of the nation's workers."

A 26-year-old employee of the Interior Department, the committee said, had been able to obtain deferment because he is related to a high official in the department.

An Associated Press report from Washington last Monday stated that Major General Hershey, director of the Selective Service, when testifying before the investigating committee, flatly replied "No" when Representative Harness of Indiana asked, with respect to furnishing all available men to the armed services, whether he thought these government agencies were setting the proper example.

Representative Harness said 750 draft-age employees of the Office of War Information had been deferred by local boards, and 127 O.W.I. employees had not even been classified for the draft.

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Labor Federation for Alaska

Locals of the American Federation of Labor in Alaska elected delegates to a meeting, scheduled to be held in Juneau, March 15, for the purpose of organizing "The Alaska Territorial Federation of Labor."

The project to federate the unions in the Territory was given authorization at the last general convention of the American Federation of Labor. Frank Marshall is general organizer in Alaska for the A.F.L.

W.L.B. Sets "Rock Bottom" Wage

The War Labor Board has moved toward making 40 cents an hour a "rock bottom" minimum wage for all wage earners by authorizing employers to grant increases up to that level without securing government approval.

One condition was attached to the board's order—that in cases where the price of a commodity might be involved in the wage increase, the adjustments proceed through regular War Labor Board channels.

A W.L.B. official explained that the board was thus making it clear that it regarded all wages below 40 cents an hour as clearly substandard.

Authority was given to make adjustments only up to 40 cents an hour, but no requirement was made that any individual employer grant such an increase unless he desires to do so.

In handling the question of substandard wages in the past, the W.L.B. has followed a "case to case" approach to the question. Increases have generally been in addition to any due under the "Little Steel" formula.

DINERS-OUT FACE RATIONING

It is reported that "equality of sacrifice" is the object of a regulation soon to be issued by Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, limiting the size and variety of meals public eating places may serve customers. The new regulations will limit the amount of meat and vegetables that may be served with any meal. Diners-out, it was said, will still fare better than those who eat at home, but their advantage will not be so great. The new "worry" on the part of restaurant patrons is whether they will pay the same prices following reduction in the quantity of food served and service rendered.

Committee Hearing on Bills Affecting Labor

(Continued from Page One)

ively by the committee, where the matter now rests.

While A. B. 485 was being discussed, across the hall the Assembly labor and capital committee was listening to impassioned pleas to pass A. B. 50, which would eliminate all racial discrimination in the employment of workers on war projects. This bill was sponsored by the California State Federation of Labor and all other organized labor groups.

Representatives of negro organizations from the southern part of the State, as well as a representative of the Federation, appeared before the committee in behalf of the measure. In spite of the arguments made, there were not enough votes in the committee to give it a "do pass" recommendation, and it still remains in the hands of the committee for future consideration.

Constructive Efforts Shown

Officials of the State Federation of Labor announce that they are extremely gratified thus far with the splendid, patriotic attitude being demonstrated by both houses of the Legislature regarding controversial legislation, and declare if the remainder of the session continues in the same constructive channel, they anticipate it will turn out to be one of the most productive ones held in some time.

The Federation is now interested in the unemployment insurance bills. Some seventy-eight of these are scheduled to be considered. According to reports, these bills may be heard by an Assembly sub-committee the first of next week. In addition to these, there are the workmen's compensation bills, which, with a number of others of a more varied character, are understood to constitute the main bulk of labor's concern.

That labor is winning a great number of new friends because of the recognition on the part of all that the State Federation of Labor is determined to place the war effort above all other considerations is generally recognized.

Execution Draws Labor Protest

A public meeting to protest the execution by the Soviet authorities last December of Henryk Ehrlich and Victor Alter, internationally known Polish labor and Socialist leaders, will be held in New York City next Tuesday, March 30.

A committee of 250 trade union members, headed by David Dubinsky, president of the I.L.G.W.U., in announcing the meeting declared that "appreciation of the valiant struggle of the Russian armed forces to drive the Hitler hordes from the Russian homeland will not lead us to condone acts of physical and moral assassination committed by the Communist dictators of Russia against ideological opponents."

The Chicago Federation of Labor last Sunday adopted a resolution condemning the execution of Ehrlich and Alter. The resolution also condemned as "ridiculous" the charge made by the Soviets that the two leaders were executed because they plotted a separate peace with Hitler.

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Will Not Oppose Hobbs Bill If Properly Amended

The American Federation of Labor announced that it will be willing to accept the Hobbs amendments to the Federal Anti-Racketeering Act, provided that a new amendment is inserted stating that activities of union members and labor organizations, recognized as legal by Congress in the Clayton Act, the Norris-LaGuardia Act, the Railway Labor Act and the National Labor Relations Act, are also legal under the Hobbs bill. This amendment will be offered by Representative Emannuel Celler of New York.

"We want to emphasize," President Green stated, "that the American Federation of Labor has not, does not and will not oppose sincere efforts to strengthen and fortify the laws against racketeering—whether the offenses be committed by labor, management or any other group.

Will Protect Workers' Rights

"But the American Federation of Labor will fight to the limit against any open or undercover attempt to condemn and punish workers and their trade unions for activities which the laws of our land rightfully acknowledge to be lawful, necessary and proper. The Hobbs bill, in its present draft, will have the effect of prohibiting legitimate labor activities along with the measure's aim to prevent actual racketeering.

"The author of these amendments (H. R. 653) has made a gesture toward exempting legitimate labor activities by a proviso in one section of the bill, confined to transportation, stating that nothing contained in that section shall be construed as repealing or modifying Sections 6 and 20 of the Clayton Act, the Norris-LaGuardia Act, the Railway Labor Act or the National Labor Relations Act.

Should Accept Safeguards

"If Representative Hobbs is sincere in seeking to protect legal trade union activities, there is no logical reason why he should not be willing to make the proviso applicable to all sections of the bill and to express it in a positive rather than a negative way. That is all the Celler amendment seeks to accomplish.

"The Supreme Court has held that there are ample provisions in federal and state laws at present to cover racketeering, if they are enforced. We agree fully with this view. However, the American Federation of Labor refuses to be placed in the false position of opposing a new law to accomplish the same end. We will support the Hobbs bill if it is properly amended."

Compromise on City Salaries

More than 5000 San Francisco employees will receive pay raises aggregating $1,250,000 a year as the result of a compromise, effected last Monday, which ended a controversy involving salary standardization. The increase becomes effective with the new fiscal year.

Included in the total amount of the increase are: $170,000 in automatic raises which would have become effective July 1; $180,000 to raise pay of Municipal Railway carmen from funds of the system, and an overtime fund for per diem workers.

In accepting the compromise all parties conceded that some injustices may be done and that the entire question of adjusting salaries must be answered again.

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STREET CARMEN GET INCREASE

The Regional War Labor Board at Cleveland, Ohio, has approved an arbitration award granting an increase to the approximately 1700 employees of the Cincinnati Street Railway Company, who are represented by Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America. The award increased the hourly rate of the one-man car, trolley, bus and motor coach operators from 81 cents to 92 cents, and the rate of the comparatively small number of two-man car motormen and conductors from 74 cents to 85 cents.

Mrs. Roosevelt to Be Here

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will visit San Francisco early next month to participate in War Bond rallies, a press dispatch from Washington announced this week.

Service Industries—W.M.C. Order

As a result of appeals from crowded communities, the War Manpower Commission has sent to its field directors instructions authorizing them to designate restaurants, hotels, laundries and food and fuel distribution services as "locally needed" in over-crowded industrial areas, thus permitting the U. S. Employment Service to recruit help for them—but without making such workers eligible for Selective Service deferment.

The designation of an activity as "locally needed" gives it the same status as essential activities under the employment stabilization program and permits the local U. S. Employment Offices to give priority in service to such activities over other activities in the community not designated as "essential" or "locally needed."

$60,000 Red Cross Pledge By Building Trades Council

The largest single contribution yet to be made by an organization or firm to the Red Cross 1943 War Fund was received last Monday from the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council. Representatives of the Council, members of the Red Cross Committee of the Building and Construction Trades Council, presented a pledge for $60,000 to W. W. Crocker, campaign chairman.

The $60,000 pledge will represent contributions of one-half day's pay from members and treasury appropriation from unions affiliated with the Council.

The unions already subscribing to the $60,000 pledge include the Asbestos Workers, Bricklayers, Carpenters No. 22, Carpenters No. 483, Elevator Constructors, Operating Engineers No. 64, Engineers No. 3, Cement Finishers, Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, Lathers, Steamfitters, Sprinkler Fitters, Roofers, and the Construction and General Laborers' Union, which latter has donated $3000 and has requested its membership to subscribe as liberally as possible. Upholsterers' Union No. 3 also is collecting one-half day's pay from its membership. The remainder of the organizations affiliated with the Council have set special call meetings to vote on the matter.

Speed-Up in Procedure by W.L.B. on Wage Changes

To speed up the handling of voluntary requests for wage and salary changes, and to remove some of the burden of handling 2600 cases a week from the regional boards, the War Labor Board has adopted a short-cut method and a series of simple yardsticks to be applied by its regional boards.

Under the shortened procedure, complicated statistical wage analyses will be eliminated, thereby effecting a great saving in time. The new procedure may be used under three conditions:

Regional Board Authority

1. *To Correct Interplant Inequalities.* The Regional Boards have been given authority to make surveys to determine "the most frequent rate or range of rates" by occupations within industries, communities or labor market areas, and to apply that rate in passing upon applications for wage adjustments under the shortened procedure.

2. *To Eliminate Substandard Wages.* Regional Boards have been given authority to determine "what constitutes substandard wage or salary rates in their regions for the purpose of permitting consideration under the shortened procedure of proposed adjustments up to the specified minima." Until this has been determined, the adjustment of wage or salary rates up to 50 cents an hour or $20 a week may be handled by the shortened procedure. The regional boards are not to consider this figure as "in any way limiting" their discretion to fix the minimum at either a higher or lower point.

On Proposals by Employers

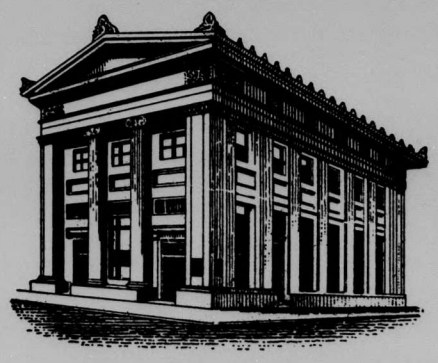
3. *To Eliminate Inequalities for Individuals or Small Groups.* Regional Boards may use the short-cut method in passing upon adjustments proposed by employers of 200 or less employees in order to eliminate inequalities, if the adjustment affects no more than 10 employees or 10 per cent of the employees and does not exceed 5 cents an hour.

Under this new procedure, the wage stabilization director for each regional board is authorized to rule finally (subject to appeal to the regional board) on all cases involving employers of 200 workers or less, and all cases where adjustments are requested under the "Little Steel" formula.

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Our Own United States

The persistency with which living conditions and other practices under the necessity of wartime are being compared as between the United States, and Great Britain and the conquered countries, begins to pall on the nerves. Is the propaganda in that direction attempting to have everyone in this country get out an umbrella or roll up trousers every time "it's raining in London"?

For more than two generations, since union labor began to thrive here—and perhaps in general throughout the nation's history—our people have lived under different conditions, and as a whole have enjoyed a higher standard of living than hundreds of thousands in Britain, and the conquered countries, ever dared hope for. Why surrender it now—at the behest of the army of lecturers and "do-gooders" by whom this nation is being overrun in the interest of every country except our own?

That is not to say that all considerations of humanity, justice and charity should be cast to the winds, nor that we should be "thankful we are not as other men." Neither is it to forget the high courage with which great danger, and even want, have been faced against a ruthless foe. Far from it!

But, in all reverence, it may be stated of the parable—in human understanding, not as to its deeper significance—that the Good Samaritan who found the robbers' victum by the roadside only bore him to the inn, left word he should be cared for, and agreed to pay the expense.

There is no record or claim that the Samaritan went home and ordered any part of his butter, eggs, meat or family furniture sent forthwith to the inn for the robber victim's use. Doubtless though, had such order been deemed necessary it would freely have been given, and the family even placed on rationing. Neither is it understood the victim made such request, or that from his bed of pain he subtly suggested to his benefactor that henceforth they enter into an alliance whereby henceforth the Samaritan always would be on hand to effect rescue of victims who persist in traveling dangerous roads without providing their own protection.

After all is said, the fact remains that the United States again found Britain and the conquered nations by the roadside. They were still under attack and the United States entered into combat against their assailants. It is giving them every assistance—military, and in behalf of their stricken people. There is no doubt the material aid will be continued, to all reasonable extent, once the enemy has been driven away—let us hope destroyed.

Without boasting, it is recalled the people of the United States and its government have a history and a mode of living different from that of other nations. This has been a favored land. The reasons are numerous, but not necessary, or even appropriate, to mention at this time. It is safe to say few, if any, of our people desire to make a change, except that of improvment along the lines of well established principles that have been followed for over a century and a half. Many of our troubles can be traced to importation, and coddling, of foreign ideas and "isms." We have lived at peace with the world, except when drawn into conflicts that were none of our making. We doubtless can continue to do so. And the reason is not apparent that our every standard of living should even now be sacrificed in the interest of others. The necessity for any sacrifice should be established by thorough investigation on the part of competent authorities.

The aim, and practice, of union labor has been to help others to help themselves and to achieve for them independence, but the practice has not been to give up everything in making such attempts merely because someone made the suggestion. That principle and practice of labor might well be used in world affairs, and especially be given consideration by self-appointed philanthropists and advisers.

The enemy must be destroyed. Certain sacrifices by the people in general are necessary, and proper. And the American way of life and of living—the best on this earth—can and must be preserved for the future.

Increase in Labor Efficiency

A report issued by the National Bureau of Economic Research reveals that in 1939 American factories turned out a volume of products twice as large as in 1914, with a labor force only one-fifth greater.

As further evidence of the amazing increase in productivity the report cites that in the 40-year period 1899-1939 the number of factory jobs doubled, while the output of those factories increased fourfold.

This decline in unit labor needs was held to be the more remarkable in view of the fact that weekly hours of labor dropped from an average of 60 to about 40 hours.

Speaking of Racketeers

International Labor News Service

We have for months been reading in our daily papers horriferous stories about labor racketeering. Seems some union officials have been gouging, and congressmen, columnists and editors demand an end to it. No sincere labor union official will take issue with such a commendable aim. If any labor official is dishonest he should be jailed.

One remedy proposed is to make all labor unions publish their financial statements and report to the government periodically. A law to accomplish this and much more is being considered. This bill is so vicious and so far-reaching it must be killed.

But, oh, yes! we were speaking of racketeering! You didn't see much, if anything, in your favorite daily about it, but recently the House adopted an amendment to the independent offices bill which will compel the Home Owners' Loan Corporation to liquidate its affairs and go out of business.

This quiet little amendment will effect a $450,000,000 treasury grab for securities corporations — of course, at the same time causing several hundred thousand little home owners to lose their properties.

The H.O.L.C. was created early in the Roosevelt administration to save big lending agencies which were loaded with defaulting mortgages. Had the Government at that time not gone to their rescue, they would have gone to the wall. At the same time the Government saved the homes of about a million small owners.

Now, however, business has improved, real estate values are on the upgrade, and the corporations which welcomed government intervention ten years ago now want to regain the gilt-edged securities and mortgages Uncle Sam took over. They do not, however, want the shaky ones; and that is why if this steal goes through the little fellows will be holding the bag and their defaulted mortgages.

Attend the meetings of your local Union!

The Heart's Desire

By RUTH TAYLOR

"Freedom is the right to seek for one's heart's desire—and to let the other man hunt for his."

Many of you have been privileged to hear Victor Olander give this trenchant definition of freedom. It is one of those sentences that stay with you, for, after all, doesn't it express the ideals and dreams of all of us? We are all seekers after our heart's desire—that vision that is our guiding star, leading us on through discouragement, heartache and despair toward a shining goal at the rainbow's end.

"The right to seek"—freedom to move about, to be no man's slave and no man's master, but free to search for those things which we want: a home, economic security, a job in which we can serve others because we wish to serve. That is a right forever laid down to us in the Constitution. That is a right we will never abrogate, though we may voluntarily lay it aside in times of common danger.

"Our heart's desire"—the goal of happiness which is common to all of us—no matter how we may express it. Our heart's desire is for the betterment of ourselves and of those we hold dear. It may be sacrifice that is our heart's desire—the priests who went to minister unto the lepers were so motivated; it may be the building of a home that is our heart's desire—the conquering of the wilderness was the fruit of this wish; it may be greater benefits for our children—our free schools, our great universities, our high-spirited teachers are the fulfillment of that dream. Our heart's desire is not the same for any of us; but it is *ours*, created out of our needs, our hope and our faith—not by the will of another man.

"To let the other man hunt for his." We cannot keep freedom to ourselves. Freedom is never a lonely thing, a right of one man for himself alone. Special privilege is license, not liberty. Freedom by its very nature is universal. We must never forget that the master is slave as well as the man; the jailer as well as the captive. Our homes are safe as we respect our neighbor's home. Our children grow in strength and learn wisdom as we make these opportunities free to all children. We go freely to worship as we allow our neighbor the same privilege. No church, regardless of denomination, is safer than its neighboring cathedral, church, or synagogue. Freedom is based on the self-respect of man, and on his corresponding respect for his neighbor as a man.

"Freedom is the right to seek for one's heart's desire—and to let the other man hunt for his."

Mid-West Landlords Benefit

A statement issued by the Office of War Information in Cleveland, covering that city and twelve other large war centers, declared that the "net operating income of landlords today is larger in absolute dollars than it was in the two-year period, 1939-1940, the years immediately preceding the sharp impact of defense activities."

"Widespread decrease in vacancy loss" and "the almost complete disappearance of collection delinquents and a decrease in competitive decorating" are responsible for the improved position of landlords, according to the report.

"Based on data gathered, it is believed that the continuing and growing study of operating costs will show the same pattern of increased operating expenses."

NO CONTEST—THE GIRLS WIN

There will be no halt in powder, lipstick, creams, mascara, nail polish and other cosmetics, W.L.B. promised, pointing out also that cosmetic hosiery will help to offset the stocking shortage.

NEARLY 100 PER CENT UNION

Of the 20,000 persons in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who are buying War Bonds through the payroll deduction savings plan, 17,000 are members of unions, the organizations which teamed up with management to make a city-wide campaign effective.

Must Face the Facts, and Know the Correct Answer

(Press Service of Pacific Coast Metal Trades)

Are you interested in the wages, hours and conditions you receive for your labor on the job?

Most working people are, and with good reason, because it is precisely these things which make possible the American standard of living.

Here in the United States the American Federation of Labor has struggled for many years to build up and sustain creditable living standards. Without powerful unions to guarantee our economic well-being and security, it is probable that the American standard of living would long since have been degraded to the level of European peasants or even Oriental coolies.

The American people resent that sort of thing. American Federation of Labor unionists have fought tooth and claw to make it possible to live like civilized beings. The A.F.L. is proud of the record that has been made. It is still fighting vigorously in your interests and in the interests of your fellow workers on the job.

Be Familiar with Labor's Aims

If you are sincereley interested in maintaining an American standard of living—and we assume that you are—then you are urged to familiarize yourself with the objectives, ideals and history of the A.F.L., which alone represents the established labor movement of the U.S.A.

The reason you are urged to inform yourself fully on the all-important subject of labor unionism is that your union, which has long befriended and helped you and your sort of people, is now in danger. Forces are already at work, at home and overseas, to undermine your organization and to wipe out the gains of all these years of struggle and sacrifice.

"Why is it necessary for me to go to the trouble of studying labor unionism?" you may ask. Well, here's the answer: If you think enough of the wages, hours and conditions you now enjoy, you should think enough of the union responsible for such blessings to act, think and talk intelligently in its defense.

Things Don't Just Happen

Only the uninformed and apathetic wage earner takes the many benefits derived from union membership for granted. The real union-minded man or woman, familiar with the facts in the case, knows from experience and observation that such things don't just happen.

Somebody had to fight and sacrifice against great odds to build up that union and those union conditions. After all, the American standard of living didn't grow on a blackberry bush. It was union men and women who made decent working conditions.

That is why it is necessary for you and your fellow workers on the job to be informed about your union. It is necessary for you to "know the score," to face facts in this changing world and to know the correct answer. How else can you defend your union and union conditions from attack? How else can you prevent that American standard of living from slipping from your grasp through uncertainty and indecision?

Dangerous Doctrines

Every once in a while a crisis occurs in human history which calls for the adoption of new methods of thinking and acting and the discarding of our old ones. This war is a crisis of that sort. But, should we give up the unions that protect our living standards? Some foolish people are even urging us to discard our American system of free government, free enterprise and free labor unionism in favor of "streamlined" but less democratic European modes.

That is the argument of the Fascists, the Communists, the State Socialists and the Bureaucrats. How would you choose if you were confronted with the question of discarding the American way in favor of some other way?

How would you choose if you were asked to give up your American standard of living in favor of the standard of living of European peasants or Oriental coolies?

Would you know the answers if some plausible alien-minded spieler were to try to talk you out of your loyalty to America and American institutions in favor of the untried and untrustworthy ideas of European dictatorships?

Today, we are facing a crisis in the American labor movement as well as in world affairs. Our American form of government and our American form of labor unionism are on trial at home and abroad.

In Unity Dwells Safety

Individually or in small groups wage earners are like chaff in the wind in the face of the global world revolution that is flaming on every side. Only the solidarity and unity of American labor can save our democratic labor unions and our American standard of living from being sucked into the maelstrom.

Only through labor union education can you, and tens of thousands like you, be informed and aroused as to the danger that confronts all of us who work for wages.

This is no time to think of splitting the forces of organized labor. This is no time to think of anything but the old-time solidarity and unity upon which the labor movement was founded.

We want you to help by standing shoulder to shoulder with those who are fighting on the right side. Will you?

HANDICAPPED WORKERS PLACED

In 1942 the local offices of the U. S. Employment Service placed 91,396 handicapped workers in jobs, an increase of 72 per cent over 1941 and 230 per cent over 1940. Since in some local offices, handicapped workers constitute over 10 per cent of the placements of the active file, the bureau pointed out that there is still need for recognition by employers, particularly in the areas of current labor shortage, that those workers are capable and satisfactory employees on jobs where care is taken to fit skills and capabilities to the work requirements.

NAZIS "SOFTENING"?

Reports from Norway confirm a slightly improved treatment of military and civil prisoners in German hands, the American office of the International Transport Workers' Federation says. There is general comment that this change is due to the military reverses suffered by Germany and the growing realization that a German victory can no longer be expected. Also, it is declared that sabotage and violent action are on the upgrade. About 120 Gestapo officials and Nazi elite guards are said to have been killed during January alone in the Netherlands "by unknown hands."

Civil Liberties Union Program

President Roosevelt's declaration that "we will not under any threat, or in the face of danger, surrender the guarantees of liberty our forefathers framed for us in the Bill of Rights," is the keynote of the 1943 program of the American Civil Liberties Union, just made public.

The program includes planks "opposing removal of citizens from military areas save under civilian control and with adequate safeguards against unreasonable or discriminatory action; arbitrary postoffice censorship of printed matter without adequate court review; unreasonable censorship, on the ground of military necessity, of communications with foreign countries by mail, cable or radio; suppression of opinion and utterances not presenting a clear and present danger of illegal acts, and restraint on debate or criticism of public policies under cover of war measures, with the proviso that the Union does not participate in cases involving persons deemed to be co-operating with or working on behalf of the enemy save where fundamental issues of due process are involved."

Falsehoods Overtaken by Facts, on "Absenteeism"

At last week-end it was reported from Washington that the uproar in the national capital over "absenteeism" seemed to be fading away. The subject had been used by the rap-labor-at-any-cost forces in an effort to force anti-union legislation through Congress.

Paradoxically, however, facts and lack of facts are said to have halted the drive. The facts were brought out when witness after witness before congressional committees revealed that no group is doing more to solve the problem than organized workers. And the lack of facts was strikingly revealed when James T. Mitchell, director of the War Department's division of industrial personnel, told the House labor committee that "as far as can be determined no one knows just how much absenteeism there is—we have no figures from first hand information."

"Attack on Unions"

Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission, charged that much of the agitation was designed solely as an "attack on unions" and he, also, declared that "organized labor is doing some of the most constructive work to curtail job absences." The solution, McNutt said, is to be found through co-operative action by labor and management to meet underlying causes for absenteeism.

And the Associated Press didn't aid the anti-labor forces a bit in one instance during the week with a report from its London correspondent who cabled to the effect that losses from absenteeism in Britain average 10 per cent—far greater than in this country. Further, the story confirmed testimony before congressional committees that absenteeism is not to be cured through punishment, but by co-operation between the workers and management in elimination of its causes. The "A.P." correspondent said excessive working hours, with resulting fatigue and illness were the principal reason for absenteeism in Britain—the same explanation given by those who have studied the subject in the United States.

Senator's Statement

Senator Truman, chairman of the Senate's defense investigating committee, following a tour of many war plants in the nation, which included the Pacific Coast, said that "seven-day weeks cause most of the trouble; workers get tired and simply can't stand up under the strain."

The most rabid of the anti-labor forces, in Congress and out, do not attempt to claim that these governmental officials and other agencies are not stating facts as revealed by experience and observations, or that they are not interested in the national welfare.

Networks Give Time to Labor

Organized labor leaders took part in 120 broadcasts originated by the four major radio networks in 1942. Most of these were "coast-to-coast." The time was furnished free of charge by stations affiliated with the networks. There also were many additional regional and local labor broadcasts from individual stations.

Thirty-seven of the network broadcasts were in the "Labor for Victory" series heard each Sunday at 10:15 a. m., Pacific time, over the NBC network. This series is programmed on alternate weeks by the A.F.L. and C.I.O.

TEAMSTERS BOOST BOYS' WAGES

The National War Labor Board Trucking Commission has approved unanimously an arbitrator's award raising the minimum pay for 850 "push boys" and "wagon boys" in New York from $20 to $25 per week, and adjusted other rates up to 15 per cent above the straight time average hourly earnings of January 1, 1941. The increase is retroactive to last September 1. The Teamsters' Union represents the employees.

If you want our war engines to roar a deadly defy to the Axis bandits, then *Buy War Bonds.*

Labor Organizations Invited to Take Full Part In Effecting Price Control and Rationing Plans

Price Administrator Prentiss Brown has ordered the addition of a trade union representative to all local war price and rationing boards. If necessary, the local boards are to be enlarged to make room for the labor representatives. In addition, labor advisory committees will be set up immediately by each O.P.A. district office.

"Organized labor," Brown wrote his field staff, "is solidly in support of successful price control, rent control and rationing. The labor movement has the organized means for making its support effective. Provision must be made for actual participation in the O.P.A. program by trade union members."

Instructs District Directors

Brown instructed each district O.P.A. director to invite the principal labor leaders from all industrial communities in his district to meet with him to select the district labor advisory committee.

In districts which comprise an entire state, the district managers were asked to communicate with the state labor organizations in arranging this meeting. In other districts, arrangements will be made, Brown wrote, through each city central body.

President Green, in a letter to all A.F.L. state federations and central labor unions, indorsed Administrator Brown's action and urged: "Your co-operation in this program is requested."

The O.P.A. labor office, headed by Robert R. R. Brooks, will assist in the formation of the committees in most districts. No salaries will be paid to committee members. Brown outlined a program under which the labor advisory committee would:

Proceed immediately with the appointment of one labor member upon each price panel and each rationing panel.

Co-operate with local defense councils in recruiting and training volunteer local board workers.

Union Consumer Committees

Arrange for the dissemination of price control and rationing information through local union consumer committees.

Extend labor participation in the work of plant transportation committees and handling such labor relations problems as may arise in carrying out this policy.

Provide assistance on specific problems arising in connection with both rationing and price control.

Obtain co-operation of union groups occupying strategic positions in relation to the enforcement of O.P.A. price control or rationing regulations.

Free Civil Service Classes

To supply the demand for workers of high type in many of the better civil service brackets, classes have been opened for civil service, business arithmetic, business English and many specialized business subjects, at the Adams Adult Center.

These classes are given from 8:30 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. so as to fit into the program of housewives, and of persons who work at night. Classes may be taken for only one period each day or for the full day, according to the convenience of the student.

The Adams Adult Center is a part of the San Francisco Unified School System, and is free. It is located at 750 Eddy street between Polk and Van Ness avenue. It can be reached by either the Municipal or Market Street car lines.

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Red Cross Contribution Centers

All major downtown banks are now staffed by Red Cross workers and are taking contributions to the War Fund. Banks whose neighborhood branches will take contributions are: Bank of America, American Trust Company, Anglo-California, San Francisco Bank, and the Hibernia Bank.

Red Cross workers have also been stationed in eight large downtown hotels and department stores to receive contributions. The uniformed volunteers will be on duty every day from 11 a. m.

At a meeting of Parent-Teacher Association unit presidents, held this week, plans were outlined for the house-to-house residential campaign to start next Monday, March 29.

THOSE GASOLINE "PILLS"

Although certain manufacturers claim that special pills added to gasoline will increase mileage as much as one-third, reliable tests refute these claims, the San Francisco Better Business Bureau announces. "A number of alleged gas savers are being offered to motorists at this time," the Bureau stated. "Unfortunately for motorists, our authorities do not support the savings claims made for gasoline additives sold for use in small quantities," the statement continues, and further, that "it seems obvious that if any 'dope' could be added to gasoline to make it give a substantial increase in mileage, the U. S. Government would be the largest customer for the product at this time."

TIRE INSPECTION DEADLINE

Next Wednesday, March 31, is the final day for holders of only a basic "A" gasoline ration to get their official tire inspection. A record of inspection is required for renewal of gasoline rations.

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A.F.L. Submits Tax Plan To House Committee

The American Federation of Labor submitted a "pay-as-you-go" tax program to the House ways and means committee providing for partial forgiveness of 1942 taxes. The A.F.L. plan, drawn up by its tax committee, follows:

"1. The high rates and low personal exemptions for the personal income tax make it imperative to put this tax on a pay-as-you-go basis.

"2. The most effective method of taxing current income is to deduct the tax from wages, salaries and other income payments. This results in less hardship for the taxpayer, since the tax is paid before the income can be spent, and the more frequent and smaller payments are easier to make than large annual or quarterly payments. Year-end adjustments will be necessary for overpayments and underpayments in the case of irregular incomes or incomes from more than one source, but the majority of taxpayers will have no additional tax to pay at the end of the year.

"3. The withholding system should be put into effect as soon as the administrative machinery can be set up, and preferably not later than July 1.

"3. In the transition year substantial relief should be given to all taxpayers to avoid the hardship of a double tax. The cancellation of the normal tax and first surtax bracket on 1942 income for all taxpayers would provide substantial and equitable relief for all taxpayers, would avoid any doubling of the tax for small taxpayers, and would still make it possible for the Government to obtain revenues from large and unusual 1942 incomes.

"5. The Victory Tax should be repealed at the same time that the withholding provision is adopted for the personal income tax, in the interest both of simplification of administration and equity.

"*Note*—Since it appears impossible to obtain legislative action on taxes which would permit the withholding system to go into effect before July 1, it is proposed that the first two quarterly instalments of taxes on 1942 income be collected in accordance with existing law."

Death of Anthony Giesin

Anthony L. Giesen, who previous to his retirement some eighteen months ago, was employed on the night force of janitors at the Labor Temple, died last Sunday at the age of 82. He was a member of Janitors' Union No. 9, and his passing marked the fourth death within a week among the veteran members of that organization, the others being Charles Frank, John Flynn and Charles Stevenson, the latter also being a former employee at the Labor Temple prior to his retirement.

"Tony" was of a most kindly and jovial disposition, industrious in his duty notwithstanding the age which he had attained, and highly regarded in his organization. He became a member of No. 9 in 1906 and was one of its early presidents. For a number of years prior to coming to the Labor Temple, where he worked for seven years, he had been employed in various city theaters. In addition, he had been a pioneer in Retail Delivery Drivers No. 278, and was president of that organization when its meetings were held, before the fire, in the old Shields hall, then located at 22 O'Farrell street.

He is survived by his widow, Mary A. Giesin, two sons and four daughters. The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon, from the H. F. Suhr Company parlors, and interment was in Cypress Lawn.

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State Supreme Court Sustains Stand of Federation Of Labor That Shipyard "Eye Cases" Are Compensable

(From Headquarters of the California State Federation of Labor)

Ruling that the shipyard "eye cases," which at their peak last year created havoc in production in the San Francisco Bay shipyards, were compensable, the California State Supreme Court last week upheld the awards made in these cases by the Industrial Accident Commission. This decision by the Supreme Court not only brought final defeat to the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company's long but fruitless fight to have the awards set aside, but proved once and for all the correctness of the Federation's firm stand, in the face of bitter opposition from the company and contradictory opinions from so-called "experts," that the cases were compensable.

Production Schedule Threatened

It was soon after Pearl Harbor and our entrance into the war had made the quickened production of ships a matter of literally life or death that the malady appeared and, rapidly reaching the epidemic stage, threatened to spread throughout the entire San Francisco Bay area. Production at the yards was seriously interfered with, as the sufferers were unable to work from two weeks to a month, and even longer in some instances. All the cases were extremely painful and often accompanied by the possibility of impaired vision remaining after the infection had been cleared up.

At the hearings before the Industrial Accident Commission in January and February the California State Federation of Labor, which had stepped in to represent the workers involved, offered overwhelming evidence that the infection had developed in the course of employment, and that the victims should therefore receive compensation. This view was bitterly opposed by the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company, and when the Commission handed down the awards the company exhausted every possibility open to it to have the ruling set aside. When the Appellate Court denied its petition for a writ of review to set aside the commission's award, the company then brought the case before the state's highest tribunal.

Supreme Court Ruling

In upholding the Commission's awards, the Supreme Court likewise upheld the Federation's contention that compensation was due in these cases because the infection was contracted on the job. As a matter of fact, the court's decision in this matter is an extremely important one in that it clarified a phase of compensation that has hitherto been obscure, and sets a valuable precedent. While holding that the eye cases were not cases of occupational disease, the court ruled that they were nevertheless compensable because contagion had occurred in the course of these workers' employment.

Sensed Danger to War Work

Seeing that justice was done to the workers in this matter was the first and most immediate aim of the Federation. Its second aim, which developed from the moment it entered the case, was of even more far-reaching significance, viz., to eliminate the great loss in production in the shipyards as a result of these eye infections and similar maladies by eliminating the causes for the spread of the contagion.

The contrast in the attitude toward the problem taken by the company and the Federation has been striking from start to finish. Bethlehem was interested solely in proving the cases non-compensable. But from the very beginning the Federation tirelessly pointed out that this was only one feature of the situation, and that to prevent the loss of man-hours through this or any similar cause that could be controlled was of paramount importance. Thus, a year ago, the California State Federation of Labor became a pioneer in the fight against "absenteeism" that is only culminating today.

Appalling Condition Revealed

Personal investigation by Secretary Vandeleur shortly before the hearings in the eye cases opened last year revealed an appalling state of affairs in the first-aid treatment of workers injured on the job. Not only were the rudiments of antiseptic treatment lacking, but injuries were being treated by so-called "first aid" attendants who were licensed neither to practice medicine nor to render treatment in the absence of licensed physicians. Sterilization of swabs and eye-droppers used in treating eye injuries, for instance, was ignored. Considering the great number of eye injuries which occur on each shift in a large shipyard, and the highly contagious character of the eye infection, it passes belief that an epidemic of grave proportions did not tie up all the industrial plants in the area and invade homes as well.

Some Improvement Noted

Conditions prevailing at the Bethlehem yard in the treatment of eye and other injuries were fully exposed by the Federation's attorney, at the hearings before the Industrial Accident Commission, and as a result various corrections were made and the situation was somewhat improved. Much remained to be done, however, and the Federation has never let up on its two-fold fight to see that injured employees receive adequate care, and that such a source of man-hour loss to war production is effectively plugged.

The Federation was extremely gratified, therefore, when its efforts to achieve this program received support last December from the State Department of Public Health. The recommendation issued by that department to prevent time being lost due to "shipyard eye" incorporated the Federation's essential proposals. At the same time, the Public Health Department revealed that at no time since the period of the epidemic had the infection been brought under complete control; that the number of cases had merely declined, and that they could again assume epidemic proportions unless the strictest care—such as the Federation has emphatically recommended—be taken.

Two-Fold Responsibility

It is to be hoped that the Supreme Court's decision regarding the compensability of the eye cases will further impress those in charge of the treatment of injured workers with their responsibility not only to the workers, but to our country, whose war effort demands steady and steadily-increasing production. In such a picture, absenteeism caused by criminal neglect in preventing the spread of a readily controlled infection has no place.

Put in your lick for licking the Axis. *Buy War Bonds.*

State-by-State Drive to Enact Anti-Labor Measures

Anti-union groups engaged in trying to destroy workers' rights in a state-by-state drive were breaten back in several instances last week, as the subject came up on the calendars in various legislatures.

They were defeated in Iowa, Missouri and Tennessee on the so-called "anti-violence" bill, which under the guise of barring "intimidation and violence" in labor disputes would virtually outlaw strikes and prohibit picketing.

In Indiana, all anti-union proposals were reported killed when the Legislature adjourned. In Utah, a proposal to require unions to file detailed financial reports and submit to other regulations was pigeonholed.

Picketing and Union Dues

Two bills restricting picketing were defeated in North Carolina, a resolution for a probe of unions was dropped in North Dakota, and in Iowa the House rejected a measure aimed at dictating the amount of union dues and compelling unions to incorporate.

Labor has not been wholly successful, however, and certainly has no reason to relax its vigilance at any point. In Arkansas—a recognized fertile field for retarding progress—the repressive bill sponsored by "Pappy" O'Daniel of Texas and the so-called "Christian American Association" was passed, although it had only recently been ingloriously turned down in neighboring Oklahoma, following a "personal appearance" by O'Daniel. In Idaho, Governor Bottolfson signed a bill that bars picketing at plants handling agricultural products and compels unions to file financial statements. One of the most sweeping of anti-labor measures was passed in Kansas.

Handicap on Wage Suits

The Governor of Oregon signed a bill that outlaws back wage suits by workers who are cheated by chiseling employers unless the suits are filed within six months—from the former three to six years. In Texas, nothwithstanding a "no strike" agreement entered into with the Governor by all major labor organizations, reactionary forces continue to push anti-labor proposals, several of which were denounced by the official Catholic newspaper of the San Antonio archdiocese as "Gestapo" bills and pointing out that "the first despotic act of Hitler and Mussolini was to throttle free labor unions."

"It is error alone that needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself."—*Thomas Jefferson.*

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Run o' the Hook

By FRED E. HOLDERBY

President of Typographical Union No. 21

At a well attended meeting of San Francisco Typographical Union last Sunday action was taken reducing the period of accumulation of overtime before cancellation to the minimum of sixty days as set forth in I.T.U. laws. The union had previously set the period at five years under the International provision relegating to local unions the right of establishing the length of accumulation, with a minimum of sixty days.

Robert Anastasi, son of Frank P. Anastasi of 109 Stevenson street, has joined the armed forces and departed last week for Monterey. "Bob" departed with the best wishes of his many friends.

Ernest Held, apprentice at Mackenzie & Harris and son of Chairman A. R. Held of that chapel, who recently joined the Army Air Corps, is now an aerial photographer and was this week assigned to an airplane carrier for duty overseas.

Howard Linton, who since last fall has been employed in the printing department of the Army Air Corps at Santa Ana, has returned to San Francisco and has accepted the foremanship of the Garret Press, a position he held at the time he left to work in the southern plant.

State Labor Commissioner John Dalton, who has just taken over the duties of that office in San Francisco, was in attendance at our regular meeting last Sunday. He was called upon to address the membership. "Jack" just recently resigned the presidency of Los Angeles Typographical Union, an office he had held the past eighteen years.

Emery D. Harris of the Patterson & Hall chapel is spending a furlough in San Francisco. He is attached to the Army Flying School at Lubbock, Tex. Until recently he was in charge of a flock of gliders, and is now crew chief in charge of three bombers.

With respect to delay in receipt of pension checks, previously mentioned in this column, Secretary Randolph informs us that upon consultation with Indianapolis post office authorities he finds that an order has been issued by the War Department requiring examination of all air mail which might possibly contain other than correspondence. The order is designed to prevent sabotage of mail planes through inclusion in air mail packages of explosives or incendiary bombs. It was pointed out also that in case of planes being grounded and the mail forwarded by rail there is increasing likelihood of its being sidetracked for troop trains.

F. S. Heuring, *Shopping News* operator, is taking the first part of his vacation this week.

A series of changes in personnel at the Borden Printing Company was made last week as the result of the resignation of Wayne Dye, who has been superintendent there for some time. Walter Matisick, who has been foreman, becomes the new superintendent, and Dave McCarty now is elevated to the foremanship. Dave resigned as chairman, and Charlotte McKeown of the proofroom is the new chairman.

At a meeting of the printing department of the Board of Fire Underwriters last Friday, Knowles E. Conn, who is retiring from the trade after having been an employee of that firm for fifteen years, was presented with a beautifully printed testimonial expressing regret of his fellow workers that he is leaving the chapel. He was also given an electric razor. Mr. Conn says he and Mrs. Conn, after a visit with their son, who is managing editor of the San Jose *Mercury-News*, will leave for a visit of three months or longer at their former home in Ohio.

Leonard Sweet of the Fairmont Hotel chapel, and now in the Army Air Corps printing department at Santa Ana, spent last week-end in the city while on a three-day furlough.

J. L. Bartlett, after three months with the Borden Printing Company, has again become a member of the Rotary Colorprint chapel.

Conrad Scheel of the Kohnke chapel last week received a copy of "Hawaiian Paradise" from John Roberts, a member of the Kohnke chapel now with the armed forces and stationed in Hawaii. This is an illustrated booklet by Walter Winchell describing the comic side of happenings in Hawaii.

R. L. Helgoe of Seattle Typographical Union, and a member of the *Post-Intelligencer* chapel in the Puget Sound city, paid headquarters a visit on Thursday of last week. Mr. Helgoe, who has been in the armed forces since December, is presently with the Coast Artillery and stationed at Fort Scott.

G. E. Kabatchnick, who returned to San Francisco about a month ago from Stockton, has been confined to his home with an attack of pneumonia. He reported at headquarters last Monday fully recovered in health, and is now back in circulation in the commercial branch.

W. L. Embry of Memphis Typographical Union, and a member of the *Commercial-Appeal* chapel in that city, visited at headquarters on Tuesday. In the service for more than a year, he is now in the Coast Artillery and stationed at Fort Cronkhite. Having received a fifteen-day furlough, he left on Tuesday evening for Memphis, with a two-day stopover in Shreveport, La., where he first became affiliated with the Typographical Union.

Dave Linale of the *Examiner* chapel, who has received his diploma as chief boatswain's mate in the U. S. Coast Guard Reserve as of March 5, is now on active duty at Bethlehem Steel. Dave has two sons in the armed forces. David J. Linale Jr. has served the past two years with the Field Artillery, and another son, George R., now in the Aviation Corps, enlisted six months ago.

News Chapel Notes—By L. L. Heagney

A committee appointed to revise certain sections of chapel laws reported its findings recently, and its tentative solution of election-day manpower shortage is now posted, to be acted on at the next meeting. Its members were Chairman Abbott, George Holland and Lou Henno.

Notice of the death of Johnny Enslin was received last week. He passed away in Salem, Ore., his former home, on March 15. Surviving are the widow and four young children. Enslin of late had been engaged on war work, he having resigned a situation on the *News* some months ago.

Short was the stay in town of Jack Bengston, who had been training at a Rhode Island navy base. Whether he will train further here or go overseas Jack did not know.

These are bad times to have minor operations, as Harold Krueger discovered. His M.D. removed a growth from his hand, and although it was nicely bandaged to give him the appearance of a casualty, Harold himself subbed for Krueger, no extras being available.

Writing from the air training station at Santa Ana, Harold McDermott intimated that married life is strictly okeh with him—wondered why he postponed double harness so long.

From Camp McCain, Miss., Lou Montarnal vigorously rejects the impression San Franciscans have that it rains hard here. As a native son he knows differently, especially after withstanding some Mississippi weather. His gang, Montarnal relates, changed the state's name to Mississloppy.

Released under the presidential directive that Army men over 38 be discharged, Clayton Conley, brother of Al Conley, returned to civilian life Saturday—and thirty pounds heavier than when he left it.

"The crave for planting vegetables hasn't hit me yet," averred Harry Harvey complacently. "I still prefer flowers." "You can have your flowers," Bill Gobin assured him. "I'll take cauliflowers."

"Marvelous Marin" is marvelously wet. Bert Coleman reports, otherwise he'd be busying himself on a Victory garden. With a big yard, Bert plans putting in a large variety of seeds. . . . The heavy odds against Phil Scott's tomato plants surviving look justifiable; most think it's too early. But Scott's set on getting some of the red fruit even if he has to import it from Russia.

Sid Tiers is a booster for Harvey Bell's horticultural genius. "I see no reason why he can't stretch his garden to get in a couple more rows of potatoes," Sid points out, "seeing as he not only can stretch fact, he can also stretch coffee." . . . Dick Smith concurs in the saying that you can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy—for he himself reverted to type by buying seeds and starting out to prove the saying. If they grow, Alameda won't be included out on the new maps. . . . It cost nothing to grow lyrical, so our Scottish gardener, Archie Mackey, insists our proofroom femininity are the Victory Garden's fairest flowers. . . . And after purchasing some youthful fruit trees, Eddie Haefer surlily proclaimed his nurseryman is a professional grafter.

"Call-Bulletins"—By Hoot

A letter was received in the *Call-Bulletin* chapel from Bob Roberts, formerly on the makeup, from "Somewhere in India." The last we heard from Bob was from Los Angeles, so the boys do "get around." He says the climate is like that in "Sunny" California.

Melvin Luscia and L. D. Rouse, still members of the chapel, are in defense work. Mel says he makes only about 22½ bucks for working on Sundays.

Ralph Turretine, another former member of the chapel, is now a lieutenant in the Flying Corps.

Jack de Mille, ad room, got an invitation from the President to come up and see him next Sunday.

Oliver Weakley has taken to raising chickens—the feathered kind. . . . Jess Newell is raising a vegetable garden—that is, he will if he doesn't go broke buying traps to keep the birds away.

Golf News—By Fred N. Leach

Sunday, March 28, at Sharp Park, at 10:30 a. m.! That's this coming Sunday, and it is the day of the qualifying round for the Association match play cup championship. The rules remain the same as for previous years. In short, they are as follows: The reigning champ is automatically qualified. All other contestants qualify by medal score, less handicap. The low thirty-one players are eligible to compete in match play for the cup, and drawings for the matches to follow will be made immediately after this Sunday's tournament. Matches are then played at each succeeding tournament until August, which sees the finals. Handicap revisions are made after this tournament and the new handicaps will be the ones all matches are played to. It is necessary that this qualifying round be played—rain or shine—or else the whole schedule of the match play tournament, which must end in August, will be thrown out of gear. So if you wish to qualify, you must be present at this tournament on Sunday. According to the rules, the only exception to this is in the case of an Association member playing in the finals of the City tournament. He may qualify before the tournament on Sunday, but must play with an officer or board member to certify his score. This year Percy Crebassa is the only Association member in the City finals, and he will qualify on Saturday, at Sharp Park, for the Association tournament.

OFF THE FAIRWAY—Had a swell letter from Corporal Sheveland of the Signal Corps. "Shevvy" is in Davis, Cal., and from his letter, he is living the life of the well-known Reilly. He tells among other things that he has super-delicious food (even goes to mouth-watering details) and extra-fine coffee (with seconds and thirds, if wanted). Sheveland, who was the first Association vice-president, is finding Army life very interesting, and says he is in with a swell bunch of fellows in a swell place. He sends his regards to all the gang. . . . Also had a call from Len Sweet (also a corporal—my! how these military men get titles and stuff!). Len was on a short leave from his post down south and as usual gave us a ring. We had a short, pleasant visit, and Len stated that he will be operated upon when he returns to his post. Len had a drawing showing what they're going to do to his innards—and it looked as if they're going to chop out about twenty-two picas of something or other and move part of his digestive arrangements over about six or eight points to make it line up or register or something. . . . Also had a call from Al Cantor, who was up for the week-end. Al has been in Pasadena, but may move back up here to God's country. He sends his best to all the gang, and promises to be with us again as soon as he makes that move.

GUARD SOLDIERS' WELFARE

Nations to the south of the United States are taking action to see that soldiers are given employment upon discharge. In Cuba, a recent decree requires employers to re-employ former workers honorably discharged from the Army. Brazilian workers called to the colors receive 50 per cent of their minimum wages for the duration of the war, and are guaranteed their employment on return to civil life.

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Mailer Notes

By LEROY C. SMITH

The regular monthly meeting of Mailers' Union No. 18 was held last Sunday. Following nominations for officers and delegates were made: President, LeRoy F. Bennetts (incumbent); vice-president, E. Karby (incumbent); secretary-treasurer, Joseph P. Bailey (incumbent); sergeant-at-arms, F. Lavery; executive committee (two to be elected), Duncan C. Ross, Edward Hoertkorn, Arthur Berliner; auditing committee (three to be elected), Homer Hudelson, H. Langton, John Kriese, Andrew Heaphy, F. Lavery; delegates to Allied Printing Trades Council (two to be elected), Joseph P. Bailey, Harry I. Christie; delegates to Union Label Section, Harry I. Christie, John Kriese; delegates to California Allied Printing Trades Trades Conference, LeRoy F. Bennetts, Joseph P. Bailey. The election will be held at the April union meeting.

William Welsh, apprentice, *Daily News*, has enlisted in the naval forces. . . . W. Wilson, *Examiner* chapel, is confined at home with lung ailment. . . . Thomas Stone, *Examiner* chapel, who has been confined at home for some time by illness, is reported as having suffered another set back. . . . Frank Raubinger, foreman of the *Call-Bulletin*, and James Geharty of the same chapel are confined at home by illness. . . . Fred Beck, *Examiner*, suffering from an attack of arthritis, on the advice of his doctor is taking a vacation with relatives, near Walla Walla, Wash. He applied for and was granted a 90-day leave of absence.

Resolutions and proposed changes in conducting affairs of the I.T.U., also proposed changes in laws, received from several unions, were referred to the executive committee for report thereon at the April union meeting. . . . The Honor Roll scroll, containing names of twenty-two mailer journeymen and apprentices, in military service, was presented by a special committee, which also is having No. 18's charter restored to its original condition, in order to clearly show names of charter members, and the signatures of James M. Lynch, president, and J. W. Bramwood, secretary-treasurer, of the I.T.U., who were the incumbent officers when the charter was granted.

The special newspaper advisory committee, composed of representatives of the Newspaper Publishers' Association and the international printing trades unions of Chicago, have approved the $3 per week increase, as agreed upon by local publishers and five printing trade crafts, in recent joint scale negotiations, and have forwarded same to the War Labor Board at Washington for decision.

The usual voluntary contribution of $5 per member to the Red Cross by San Francisco Mailers' Union was approved at the Sunday meeting.

B. Chedester, after several months' experience in military training at Camp White, Ore., and receiving an honorable discharge owing to being a trifle "too old"—past 38 years of age—last week returned from his sojourn in Texas, and returned to the mailer grind for his "biscuits-and-butter" livelihood.

From reports at hand, what may reverberate as more than a "tempest in a teapot"—politically—is an aftermath of M.T.D.U. representatives and bosses of the "mailer bloc" vote in recent meetings with the executive council, which unanimously turned down their fantastic proposal that the council agree to give them $250,000 and permit them to form their own international or else grant them five mailer representatives attached to the I.T.U. payroll.

"Though the people support the Government, the Government should not support the people."—*Grover Cleveland.*

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Stereotypers' Panel Alternates

President Leo J. Buckley, New York, and Vice-President Frank R. Adams, Chicago, of the International Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' Union, have been named alternate labor members of the advisory panel for the daily newspaper publishing and printing industry of the National War Labor Board.

Brewery Strike Ends

The strike in San Francisco breweries ended last Friday when the workers voted to return to their employment pending settlement of their controversy by the War Labor Board. The vote was taken following a request from Director Steelman of the U. S. Conciliation Service that work be resumed and the status quo maintained pending an amicable settlement.

"Disaster" Demonstrations, Sunday

Climaxing the series of station open house and disaster drills during the past month, five more Red Cross disaster relief stations will stage mock incidents and demonstrations next Sunday afternoon, March 28. The public is urged to attend these events.

Scenes of the demonstrations will be as follows: Sunset District, at Lawton School disaster relief station (and St. Anne's Church and Francis Scott Key School sub-stations); Parkside District, Abraham Lincoln School; Western Addition District, Girls' High School; Southern Mission District, Horace Mann Junior High School; West of Twin Peaks District, West Portal School.

An Appreciation

The LABOR CLARION expresses sincere appreciation of the kindness of Walter Macarthur in presenting to it three valuable books—"A History of the California Movement," by Ira B. Cross; "A History of California Labor Legislation," with an introductory sketch of the San Francisco Labor Movement, by Lucile Eaves, and "The Sailors' Union of the Pacific," by Paul S. Taylor, Ph.D.

Mr. Macarthur is one of the pioneers in the local labor movement, and although now retired from activity still retains an abiding interest in the welfare of the workers and keeps in touch with its progress through constant reading. His visit to the LABOR CLARION for presentation of the books was most enjoyable in that he also recited some of the observations and experiences of his long and useful career.

GIRL'S DIRE THOUGHTS

Two young ladies were out walking. Suddenly one cut loose with a piercing shriek. "Look!" she cried in amazement. "What is so terrible?" asked her friend. "They are only midgets." "Thank goodness," said the other girl, greatly relieved. "I thought for a minute they were rationing men."

Charge of Labor Blame for Absenteeism Given Reply

Tory congressmen and other labor-baiters, who have been raising a great hullaballoo about "absenteeism " were effectively answered by two of the nation's outstanding employers of workers, Andrew J. Higgins and Henry J. Kaiser, who it must be presumed know at least a little about their own affairs in comparison with some of the "arm chair" shipbuilders and "industrialists" from the corn, cotton and sheep states.

Higgins and Kaiser have smashed all records in the world's history for production of ships. Both are signed up 100 per cent with A.F.L. unions on their properties and have publicly declared they wouldn't operate without union contracts.

In his blunt, straight-spoken manner, Higgins told the Senate defense investigating committee that absenteeism is no problem at his plants and he explained why.

Union Committee Acts

"If a man is absent, a union committee talks to him," Higgins said. "The second time he doesn't show up, the committee talks to him more seriously, and the third time, it's three strikes—and he's out of his job. So we're not troubled with absenteeism, and morale among our workers is high. They work like they are going to win the war right in their plant."

Kaiser rebuked critics who attempt to pin the blame for all absenteeism on workers. He declared "much of it is due to industrialists." Where adequate housing, proper transportation, good working conditions and facilities needed by workers are provided, absenteeism drops, he said.

Warning on Legislation

He warned against any crack-down legislation, contending that it is important first "to get the facts" on causes of absences from the job, "in justice to the men being accused of absenteeism."

Kaiser insisted the problem should be attacked by voluntary means and declared union-management cooperation is vital. "I believe in unionism," he said. "Capable labor leaders are a good influence over the men."

U. S. POPULATION GAIN

The Census Bureau estimated this week that the national population had reached 135,604,000 on January 1, an increase of 1,651,000 during 1942, or nearly double the average yearly gain for the past decade.

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S. F. Labor Council

Secretary's Office and Headquarters:
Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth Street (Room 214)
Headquarters Phone MArket 6304

The Labor Council meets every Friday at 8 p. m., at the Labor Temple. The Executive and Arbitration Committee meets every Monday, at 8 p. m. The Organizing Committee meets every Friday, at 7 p. m. The Union Label Section meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 7:30 p. m.

Synopsis of Meeting Held Friday, March 19, 1943

Meeting called to order at 8:15 p. m. by Vice-President Haggerty.

Roll Call of Officers—All present, except President Shelley, who was excused.

Reading of Minutes—Minutes of previous meeting approved as printed in the LABOR CLARION.

Credentials—Referred to the organizing committee: Water Workers No. 401, George Bauer, Joseph Strong. American Guild of Variety Artists, Arthur F. Ward. Casket Workers No. 94, Claude Thomas. Teamsters No. 85, Allan A. Cameron.

Report of Organizing Committee—(Meeting held Friday, March 19, 1943.) Called to order at 7:30 p. m. The following were found to be qualified as delegates to this Council and your committee recommends that they be seated: Bakery and Confectionery Workers No. 24, Albert Panther. Cemetery Employees No. 10634, Patrick Healy. Lumber Clerks and Lumber Handlers No. 2559, Joseph Gianocca. Office Employees No. 21320, A. J. Bock.

Communications—*Filed:* William Green, president, American Federation of Labor, asking that we give a full measure of support, co-operate in every possible way, and do all we can to help lift the standard of life and living for the employees of state, county and municipal governments. Matthew Woll, president, Labor League for Human Rights, acknowledging receipt of our response to his telegram of March 3 regarding labor's contributions to the Red Cross. Chas F. West Jr., consulting expert, U. S. Treasury Department War Savings Staff, stressing the need for the continuance of the Payroll Savings Plan, War Bonds and taxes. John T. Burke, liaison officer for the American Federation of Labor, acknowledging receipt of our letter and resolutions concerning rationing and price control. Also acknowledging receipt of these were John D. McKown of Master Furniture Guild No. 1285, and Andrew Chioino of Shipfitters No. 9. Congressmen Welch and Rolph acknowledging receipt of our letter and resolution relative to $25,000-a-year salary after taxation being sufficient. The following went on record indorsing our resolution regarding the Tolan-Pepper-Kilgore bill: Automobile Machinists No. 1305 and Automobile Painters No. 1073. San Francisco Joint Council of American Federation of Labor Auxiliaries (Leona Parker, secretary), thanking Council for assistance given them in receiving their charter, and inviting all to attend their installation of officers on March 29, at the Swedish-American hall, 2174 Market street, at 8:30 p. m. Practical Nurses' Association No. 267, listing the registries sending out practical nurses, and asking that their meeting be arranged for the evening as most of their members are on day cases. Weekly News Letter from the California State Federation of Labor, dated March 23, 1943.

Donations: Erwin C. Cracknell, secretary-treasurer Photo Engravers No. 8, stating that their members throughout northern California voted to donate $5 per member to the Red Cross; all moneys collected in the different towns will be turned over to the Red Cross in that particular area. Butchers No. 508 contributed $50 and Office Employees No. 13188 contributed $50 to the Red Cross War Fund.

Bills were read and ordered paid, after being approved by the trustees.

Referred to the Officers of the Council: Communication from President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, regarding our letter and resolution of February 5 with respect to price control and rationing program of the O.P.A.

Request Complied With: A communication was received from Joseph L. Minaker, secretary of San Francisco Post Office Clerks No. 2, asking that the San Francisco Labor Council petition Senators Johnson and Downey for favorable action on H.R. 1366, which would provide the first increase in their basic pay since 1925. Motion made that the request be complied with; carried.

Resolutions: A resolution was submitted by Capt. C. F. May of Masters, Mates and Pilots No. 90 in advocacy of the naming of a Liberty ship in honor of the late Michael Casey; another, submitted by the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council, asking for revocation of the "Little Steel" wage formula—both of which were adopted. (See resolutions in full in another column of this paper.)

Referred to the Executive Committee: Leather and Novelty Workers No. 31, asking strike sanction against Keyston Bros. Manufacturing Company 755 Mission street, and Western Manufacturing Company, 149 Ninth street. Local Joint Executive Board of Culinary Workers and Bartenders, asking strike sanction against Lyons-Magnus, concessionaires of The Emporium Department Store.

Report of the Executive Committee—(Meeting held Monday evening, March 15, 1943.) In the matter of the Local Joint Executive Board of Culinary Workers and Bartenders requesting strike sanction against the Elite Sandwich Shop, 1091 Market street, this was laid over one week at the request of all present; in the matter of their complaint against the Cigar Box, 2200 Mission street, after a lengthy hearing of all matters involved your committee feels that this matter has been settled; in the matter of their complaint against the Best Sandwich Shop, 1301 Mission street, at the present time there is a woman employed, and your committee advised that she make application for membership in the union, which has agreed to accept her application and initiate her as a member; this being agreeable to all concerned, your committee recommends that this be done. In the matter of the Citizens Committee for Democratic Freedom in North Africa, Mr. Tobriner and Mr. Frederich Thompson were present and explained the contents of the resolution, merely requesting that credentials be given to the representatives of the organization for the purpose of visiting the unions and conveying to them what they desire to be done; your committee recommends that credentials be granted in accordance with the resolution as submitted. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p. m. The report of the committee as a whole was adopted.

Secretary O'Connell reported on his visit to Sacramento last Tuesday evening, stating that many members of our local unions were present, lending their support. Two bills came up (Senate Bills 92 and 93), by Senators Rich and Hatfield, that had for their purpose to make permanent S.B. 877 outlawing the secondary boycott. The hearing was held in the chambers of the Senate and quite a crowd was present. Mr. Rich and Mr. Hatfield presented their viewpoints of the bill, and President Neil Haggerty of the State Federation of Labor and Secretary Mervyn Rathborne of the State C.I.O. Council presented labor's side. The roll was called and these bills were tabled unanimously. They have many bills that need watching. He thanked the members for coming.

Fred Kracke, of the California State Labor and Utility Workers No. 1226, reported that organization took action in reference to the Consumers' Co-operative proposal, and the committee for San Francisco is going to meet here, in the Labor Temple, next Monday evening, March 22, at 7:45.

Reports of Unions—Blacksmiths No. 168—Reported having had a little trouble in the steel mills at Niles; have one of the two steel mills in the United States under the A.F.L.; pressure was brought on them because of a one-day stoppage of work; there is a very evident move afoot in all the steel mills of the area to obstruct production; it is about time we get some pressure brought on the War Production Board. Candy and Glace Fruit Workers No. 158—Reported that practically 80 to 90 per cent of the candy produced in San Francisco today is going to the armed forces; it leaves a great burden on the retailers and they are forced to close their stores two days a week, and many close at 2 p. m. in the afternoon, as they haven't the candy to supply the population.

Receipts, $540; disbursements, $312.38.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN A. O'CONNELL, Secretary.

On Your Radio Next Sunday

Another A.F.L. "Labor for Victory" program will be heard next Sunday, March 28, at 10:15 a. m., Pacific war time, on NBC stations (KPO in San Francisco). This show features the participation of labor in the Red Cross program, both in service phases and in the War Fund drive.

"We Don't Patronize" List

The concerns listed below are on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the San Francisco Labor Council. Members of labor unions and sympathizers are requested to note this list carefully *from week to week:*

Adam Hat Stores, Inc., 119 Kearny.
Advance Pattern Company, 552 Mission.
American Distributing Company.
Austin Studio, 833 Market.
Avenue Hotel, 419 Golden Gate.
Becker Distributing Company.
Bruener, John, Company.
B & G Sandwich Shops.
California Watch Case Company.
Chan Quong, photo engraver, 680 Clay.
Curtis Publishing Co. (Philadelphia), publishers of *Saturday Evening Post, Ladies' Home Journal, Country Gentleman.*
Desenfant, A., & Co., manufacturing jewelers, 150 Post.
Doran Hotels (include St. Regis, 85 Fourth St.; Mint, 141 Fifth St.; Hale, 939 Mission St.; Land, 936 Mission St.; Hillsdale, 51 Sixth St.; Grand Central, 1412 Market St., and the Ford Apartments, 957 Mission St.).
Drake Cleaners and Dyers.
Forderer Cornice Works, 269 Potrero.
Gantner & Mattern, 1453 Mission.
Gates Rubber Company, 2700 Sixteenth Street.
General Distillers, Ltd., 136 Front St.
Goldstone Bros., manufacturers of overalls and workingmen's clothing.
Lucerne Apartments, 766 Sutter.
Mirsky, B., & Son, wholesale cigars and tobaccos, 468 Third St.
M. R. C. Roller Bearing Company, 550 Polk.
National Beauty Salon, 207 Powell.
Navalet Seed Company, 423 Market.
O'Keefe-Merritt Stove Co. Products, Los Angeles.
Pacific Label Company, 1150 Folsom.
Purity Springs Water Company, 2050 Kearny.
Remington-Rand, Inc., 509 Market.
Romaine Photo Studio, 220 Jones.
Royal Typewriter Company, 153 Kearny.
Sealey Mattress Company, 6699 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
Sherwin-Williams Paint Company.
Sloane, W. & J.
Smith, L. C., Typewriter Company, 545 Market.
Speed-E Menu Service, 693 Mission.
Standard Oil Company.
Stanford University Hospital, Clay and Webster.
Sutro Baths and Skating Rink.
Swift & Co.
Time and *Life* (magazines), products of the unfair Donnelley firm (Chicago)
Underwood Typewriter Company, 531 Market.
Val Vita Food Products, Inc., Fullerton, Calif.
Wooldridge Tractor Equipment Company, Sunnyvale, California.
All non-union independent taxicabs.
Barber Shops that do not display the shop card of the Journeymen Barbers' Union are unfair.
Beauty Shops that do not display the shop card of the Hairdressers and Cosmetologists' Department of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union of America are unfair.
Cleaning establishments that do not display the shop card of Retail Cleaners' Union No. 93 are unfair.
Locksmith Shops which do not display the union shop card of Federated Locksmiths No. 1331 are unfair.

SWEDEN'S UNION MEMBERSHIP

Every fourth Swede now belongs to the Swedish Labor Federation, according to membership figures at the beginning of 1943, just announced. Membership in the Federation increased by 32,000 during 1942, to a total of 1,023,139. The Stockholm labor newspaper *Aftontidningen* says that based on Sweden's approximate population of 6,500,000 the Swedish Labor Federation is now relatively the largest in the world.

Emblem of Teamsters Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America

SAN FRANCISCO
JOINT COUNCIL
OF
TEAMSTERS
President - John P. McLaughlin
Secretary - Stephen F. Gilligan
2940 Sixteenth Street
Tel. UNderhill 1127
Office:
Room 303, Labor Temple

Petition for Change in Policies of the War Labor Board

[*As reported in the* LABOR CLARION *last week, American Federation of Labor members of the War Labor Board called upon the other members of that body for a change in the board's policy. The suggestions were for discarding the "15 per cent" wage adjustment formula; permitting employers to make certain wage adjustments; placing in effect a realistic wage policy recognizing the existence of sub-standard wages; calling for a re-hearing on the packing house and aircraft cases, and guaranteeing board decisions "without dictation" from outside persons or governmental agencies. Following is the text of the very able argument which the A.F.L. members submitted to the board in support of their petition for change in board policy.*]

We, the undersigned members of the National War Labor Board, do hereby formally petition the War Labor Board to discontinue its existing wage policy and to formulate a wage policy which is genuinely equitable, accurately realistic and administratively possible. Specifically, we request the Board to scrap its so-called "15 per cent formula" enunciated in the "Little Steel" cases; to give more than lip service in recognition of wage inequalities and substandard wages; and to utilize the possibilities for wage adjustment which now exist in the nebulous phrase "aid in the effective prosecution of the war."

Keystone of Present Policy

The keystone of the present wage policy of the Board is the maladjustment or cost-of-living principle. This principle was formally stated in the decision on the Little Steel cases in July, 1942, when a majority of the War Labor Board decided that an increase of 15 per cent in the cost of living between June, 1941, and May, 1942, had lowered proportionately the workers' peace-time standard of living. A 15 per cent increase in the average straight time hourly rate was granted to offset this decline.

At that time, the labor members of the board dissented from the decision, primarily because the cost of living had continued to rise above 15 per cent after May, 1942, and there was no indication that the rise would be halted. The majority of the board members discounted heavily labor's belief that prices would continue to rise. The specific statement was made by the majority that: "The board acts on the assumption that prices and living costs will now be stabilized under the President's seven-point program."

Labor Members' Interpretation

To our further objection that the selection of a specific percentage increase would introduce a degree of rigidity in the wage policy that was incompatible with rising prices, the majority replied as follows: "Those groups whose peace-time standards have been broken are entitled to have those standards re-established as a stabilization factor."

When the fact was stressed that some workers were handicapped by wage inequalities and sub-standard wages which should be eliminated before the 15 per cent increase was calculated, this principle was stated by the majority: "The Board, as directed by the President in his April 27 message, will continue to give due consideration to inequalities and the elimination of sub-standards of living."

Problems Board Must Face

Full appreciation of the seriousness of the wage problems which confronted the War Labor Board plus the assurance of a flexible wage policy which would make possible maintenance of peace-time standards of living induced the labor members to join with the majority in attempting to administer the newly established wage policy. We interpreted the absence of rigidity in the wage policy to mean that if experience belied the results promised, we could call upon the War Labor Board to reconsider its wage policy.

Evidence accumulated to show that a primary assumption upon which the entire wage stabilization program had been predicated was false. *Prices and the cost of living have not been stabilized.* The undeniable fact is that the national cost of living as of January, 1943, has risen more than 20 per cent since January, 1941, while wage increases of only 15 per cent have been allowed to offset this rise. Specifically there has been an official cost of living rise of 5.6 points between May 15, 1942, and January 15, 1943, using January, 1941, as a base of 100. By April, 1943, it is reasonable to assume that this official figure will rise to 123 points over the January, 1941, base of 100. To make matters worse, a statement was made by the head of O.P.A. that at best he hoped only to retard the rise in prices—he could not stop it. In other words, the peace-time standards of the workers had and would continue to be broken despite assurances that "prices and living costs will now be stabilized." To bring this line of O.P.A. reasoning up to date, we find on March 15, 1943, Price Administrator Prentiss Brown stating the following at a conference in Chicago: "We will be doing well if we hold the rise in the cost of living to one-half of one per cent per month." It is interesting to note in this connection that the actual official rise between May 15, 1942, and January 15, 1943, amounts to more than the one-half per cent figure of Price Administrator Brown. Actually the rise has been seven-tenths of a point per month.

Problems Board Must Face

To sum up at this point, therefore, the fact can be stated that prices have climbed more quickly than wages, and the assumption which made possible the maladjustment principle in the "Little Steel" cases and in Executive Order No. 9250 has not proven to be valid. The problem which the Board must now face is two-fold:

1. Is the maladjustment principle to be modified to allow for more than a 15 per cent adjustment of wages?

2. If no change is made, does the Board admit that in fact it no longer has a flexible wage policy but that a "wage freeze" is in force?

It is our considered judgment that the National War Labor Board should recognize the fully demonstrated fact that the 15 per cent wage adjustment is no longer equitable and should therefore be scrapped. In its place there should be a cost-of-living adjustment which realistically reflects the actual cost of living to the worker today.

Has Not Been Realistic

The Board has not been realistic when it has confined itself to the use of national average cost-of-living index figures solely. Concretely, when a worker uses 40 per cent of his income to buy food alone and the cost of food had jumped 33.6 per cent since January 1, 1941, no over-all statistical figure indicates with complete accuracy what has actually happened to that worker's standard of living.

Those principles of the War Labor Board's wage policy having to do with inequalities, sub-standard wages, and the more effective prosecution of the war are more observed in their breach than in practice. A principle on wage inequalities has only recently been formulated. We are approaching the end of the first year of an established wage policy, yet this principle is not well established and uncertainty still characterizes its application.

A principle of sub-standard wages is still in the formation state despite the fact that the nation's peace-time wage averages are far below any theoretical level of decent existence. The board has been extremely chary of taking a realistic position. That such action can be defended as an aid in avoiding inflation is to deny the basic premise of equality of sacrifice. Sub-standard wages make a farce of rationing when the worker cannot buy his fair share of goods.

Concerning the principle of wage regulation designed to aid in the more effective prosecution of the war, little can be said beyond the fact that it is an obvious catch-all that currently is used to define those cases in which, for manpower reasons, the board is forced to overlook its wage policy and grant substantial wage increases.

"Contradiction and Confusion"

The difficulties experienced by the National War Labor Board are due in the main to the attempts made to apply an inflexible formula to a flexible and changeable situation. As a result the board has found itself immersed in contradictions and confusion. Factual proof of this assertion is to be found in the decisions of the board in the packing house cases and the West Coast airframe cases. The acquiescence of the workers involved in these manifestly unfair decisions cannot be interpreted as an indication of justice done, but rather must be accepted as supreme proof of the deteremination of these workers to sacrifice to the limit in order to win the war.

We call upon the National War Labor Board to recognize also that its very existence is threatened by its inability to administer its own wage policy. This failure of the board does not arise from the negligence of any one person or any group of persons within the board. On the contrary, the overall efficiency of this newly created agency reflects credit upon its personnel. Nor does this failure vitiate the basic idea upon which the War Labor Board has been founded. Only the fact that the board has striven so earnestly for perfection of a rigid wage control policy has endangered its existence. This fact alone leads us to suggest the need for realism in the board's selection of a wage policy. The increase in the number of "bootleg" wage increases adds strength to this conclusion.

Question of Jurisdiction

Last, but not least, in our petition for the creation of a new wage policy there remains the question of jurisdiction of the National War Labor Board in wage matters. We recognize that any wage decision of the board is subject to the limited review power of the Director of Economic Stabilization. We also recognize that the National War Labor Board is a tri-partite body of representatives of the public, of the employer and of the employees organized to arrive at its decisions by the democratic process of majority rule. It is our belief that no action by which the rights of this Board are denied should be tolerated.

[The petition concludes by summarizing the suggestions made by the A.F.L. members for change in the board policy, which summary was given in last week's issue of the LABOR CLARION and are epitomized in the introductory paragraph to this article.]

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Labor Council Resolutions

As referred to in the minutes of the San Francisco Labor Council, appearing elsewhere in this issue, the following resolutions were adopted by that body at its meeting held last Friday evening:

HONORING THE LATE MICHAEL CASEY

Whereas, The United States Government has made it a practice to name "Liberty" ships built for the U. S. Merchant Marine after departed, loyal and patriotic statesmen and prominent citizens of our country; and

Whereas, The National Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots of America, West Coast Local No. 90, holds the late Michael Casey in high esteem and honors his memory for his untiring efforts during his lifetime on behalf of humanitarian legislation and service for the uplift of his fellowmen, which was not only recognized in the city of San Francisco, but throughout the nation; and

Whereas, The late Michael Casey served as the president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Warehousemen's and Helpers' Local No. 85 from 1900 to 1937, and was vice-president of the above named International Brotherhood for many years; also faithfully served the City and County of San Francisco as a public servant in the capacity of chairman of the Board of Public Works for ten years, and member of the Board of Health for five years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots of America, West Coast Local No. 90, in regular meeting assembled March 17, 1943, go on record and petition the committee in charge of naming the Liberty vessels to consider naming a vessel, now under construction and to be launched on Labor Day of 1943, after Michael Casey, and in this way honor not only the memory of Michael Casey as one of the nation's foremost labor leaders and citizens, but also organized labor as a whole for the magnificent record it has established and is consistently maintaining in its all-out support of our nation's war effort; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, director of War Shipping Administration; Mr. Creighton Peet, Jr., secretary, Maritime Commission; William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Daniel J. Tobin, general president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs and Warehousemen and Helpers; Frances M. Perkins, Secretary of Labor; the San Francisco Labor Council, other interested parties, and the press.

REVOCATION OF "LITTLE STEEL" FORMULA

Whereas, Upon the entrance of the United States into the war, organized labor pledged itself not to strike for the duration, whereupon the National War Labor Board was instituted, and designated as the tribunal to decide wage and other issues wherein the interests of labor were concerned; and

Whereas, The matter of wage adjustments was apparently linked with the project of preventing inflation and undue rises in the cost of living; and

Whereas, In conference held in connection with this subject representatives of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organiaztion agreed to a formula to be used by the National War Labor Board in the determination of wage issues; and

Whereas, The essence of this formula is the limitation of wage increases to 15 per cent, effective as of January 1, 1941, and which formula is familiarly known as the "Little Steel Formula"; and

Whereas, This formula was subscribed to by labor with the reciprocal understanding that the cost of living would be held within certain bounds; and

Whereas, The undertaking of holding down the cost of living has proved unsuccessful, and everything indicates a further continued rise in the cost of food and other commodities mostly used by workers, which should nullify the "Little Steel Formula"; and

Whereas, Basically a formula based on percentage is unsound, inequitable and discriminatory in that it works to the disadvantage of the lower wage bracket workers; and

Whereas, Efforts of labor organizations to secure equitable wage adjustments in keeping with the times, through the medium of the National War Labor Board, are doomed to failure on account of the board being governed in its decisions by the "Little Steel Formula"; and

Whereas, Obviously the "Little Steel Formula" must be discarded by the National War Labor Board and its regional boards before the wage demands of labor can be equitably and completely resolved; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council that we petition the President of the United States and the National War Labor Board to, without delay, revoke the "Little Steel Formula" and in its place set up a plan whereby each wage demand will be considered on its merits, in keeping with the American way instead of by arbitrary rule; thereby increased production, the actual rise in the cost of living and other relevant factors would receive the consideration they deserve; be it further

RESOLVED, That the president of the American Federation of Labor, the president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, the State Federation of Labor, and the San Francisco and Alameda central labor councils be requested to take similar action.

Office Workers in Shipyards

Organization of office workers and timekeepers at the Seattle-Tacoma shipyard at Tacoma is reported progressing under the active campaign of Office Workers' Union No. 20360. The Tacoma Metal Trades Council, with which the Office Workers' Union affiliated last January, has pledged support in organizing the shipyards.

Similar shipyard organization is in progress along the Coast, with the co-operation of local metal trades councils. Local 16304, Seattle, won bargaining rights in an N.L.R.B. election for office and clerical workers at the two Associated Shipbuilders' yards. Delegates from the Office Workers participated in the Pacific Coast Metal Trades District Council convention held in Tacoma last month.

The Office Workers, coastwise, seek inclusion in the Master Shipbuilding Agreement as a means of improving conditions, according to the *Office Worker,* official organ of the International Council of Office Employees' Unions (A.F.L.).

FINED FOR SELLING WAR JOBS

Four men convicted of selling jobs in shipyards were fined by Federal Judge Harrison in Los Angeles this week. Fines of $2500 and suspended jail sentences of six months were imposed upon O. B. Bartlett, former personnel manager of the Consolidated Steel Corporation; Charles Held, civilian inspector for the U. S. Maritime Commission, and W. F. Moffett, Long Beach tire dealer.

Craftsmen's Opportunity For Enlistment in the Navy

According to information from the Navy recruiting office, it is now possible for workers with the requisite qualifications in their trades to enter the Navy and receive ratings and pay commensurate with their skill and abilities. The two-fold benefit to be derived from this new ruling is obvious; not only will the Navy avoid loss of time in utilizing vitally needed skills, but workers due to be drafted and having dependents can be assured of being able to care for them much more adequately while in the service.

Men in the age group 18 to 37 years of age who possess such qualifications, and who are at present classified either 1-A or are in any of the temporarily deferred classifications, may, *if they have not yet received their induction orders,* go to the nearest Navy recruiting office, where they will be given the proper form to be filled out. When this has been done, they will take the completed form to their own draft board, which will route them to the Navy, where they will receive the rating for which they are qualified, provided, of course, that they pass the necessary physical examination. This procedure may be followed by similarly qualified older men in the age group 38 to 50 years and 6 months, inclusive, at any time.

Anyone desiring further details about what may be called "volunteering" for induction into the Navy, and in this way receiving without delay the rating for which his qualifications and skill make him eligible, should inquire at the nearest Navy recruiting office.

Newspaper Garbling

Speaking to a group of investment bankers at Chicago recently, Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, urged "Spartan" living standards for Americans, to avoid inflation. Press reports quoted him as advocating a 30 per cent withholding tax and a 11 per cent sales tax.

Eccles' office at Washington has refuted that statement, declaring he still insists a sales tax should be adopted only as a "last resort." This is consistent with the policy he has urged during the last thirteen years.

Unless a heavy hand is laid on wealthy individuals and corporations, Eccles declared, the temptation to tax the backs and stomachs of the people may be too strong for Congress to resist.

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